member of the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee including on handloom sector, mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market-oriented forward looking industry. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Report, the Government is in the process of framing the new Textile Policy.

Share of Textile Industry in Export

†2284. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total annual export from the country around 15 percent on an average constitute for the textile industry;

(b) if not, what is the estimated share of textile industry in the total export;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to find out possibilities of increasing this share; and

(d) if so, howmuch export can additionaly increased from the country alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The textiles account for approximately 1/3rd of our total exports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the possibilities of increasing our share and the measures taken by the Government from time to time boost textile exports, the indicative target for textile exports during the year 2000-2001 AD has been fixed at US$15532 million, which is approximately 20% higher than the projected export performance of 1999-2000.

Demand for Separate Handloom Policy

†2285. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 3.5 crores families of weavers are earning their livelihood through handloom industry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that such weavers have demanded from Government to formulate a separate handloom policy; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government on the said demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the Handloom Census 1995-96 results, 25.2 lakhs households in the Country were engaged in handloom related activities. Handloom Sector is an integral part of the textile sector and the intererests of the handloom weavers would be taken care of while finalising the New Textile Policy.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

2286. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the textile mills functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such textile mills, district-wise; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for the purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e., up to 31.03.2004. Any eligible textile/jute unit can avail of funds within the framework of the aforesaid scheme and normal financial norms of the concerned financial institution/bank. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a porject of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Unaudited Accounts of NTC Mills

†2287. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of National Textile Corporation Mills (NTC) and its subordinate textile mills have not been audited for the last several years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.